

Tellicherry—Chithradurga National Highway

675. **SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preliminary work of Tellicherry—Chithradurga National Highway has been completed; and

(b) if so, the time by which this National Highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (**SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER**): (a) and (b) Tellicherry—Chithradurga road is on State Highway network and is not a part of the National Highway system. The Governments of Kerala and Karnataka are responsible for its development.

NRI Problems Regarding Direct Investment

676. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of non-resident Indians has recently submitted a memorandum in connection with various problems relating to direct investment in India;

(b) if so, the details of the memorandum; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (**SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR**): (a) to (c) Government receives from time to time various memoranda/suggestions from NRIs/NRI organisations to simplify procedure, review policies and to provide better incentives to create a more favourable climate for NRI investments. These suggestions are duly examined and implemented to the extent they fit in the

overall objective of development and increasing foreign exchange inflows. Constant effort is also made to streamline the procedure and remove bottlenecks and irritants for prospective NRI investors.

Introduction of New Tank, Air-craft, and Missiles

677. **SHRI HARIN PATHAK:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main battle tank 'ARJUN', Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and different missiles are ready for introduction in the Defence Forces;

(b) if so, when these are likely to be introduced;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in their production and the likely increase in the cost as a result thereof;

(d) whether any decision has been taken for procurement/construction of the new aircraft carrier for the Navy; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (**SHRI SHARAD PAWAR**): (a) Main battle tank 'ARJUN', Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and different missiles are at various stages of development/evaluation.

(b) Main battle tank 'ARJUN' is expected to be introduced into service after completion of trials by Army in 1992. Delivery of LCA to Air Force is likely to commence during first half of the next decade. The surface-to-Surface missile PRITHVI and Surface-to air missile TRISHUL are likely to be introduced in Army in 1992. Third generation anti-tank missile NAG and medium range Surface-to-air missile AKASH are expected to be delivered to Services in 1994 and 1995 respectively.

(c) The reasons for delay and increase in cost of main battle tank 'ARJUN' are:

- (i) Changes in Qualitative Requirements by the Army.
- (ii) Requirements of additional prototypes for trials.
- (iii) Requirement of pre-production series tanks.
- (iv) More realistic assessment of technical and user trials. The revised cost of main battle tank ARJUN project is Rs. 280.8 crores as compared to original estimate of Rs. 15.5 crores.

The development of LCA has been delayed mainly in obtaining critical technologies from abroad, non-availability of inadequate infrastructure and the level of indigenously available technologies. Cost of LCA project at 1982-83 price level was Rs. 560 crores. The estimated cost of the project upto first phase of Full Scale Engineering Development for two LCA technology demonstrator aircraft is Rs. 1670 crores. The Missile programme in progress is more or less on schedule; however, the project cost has been revised from Rs. 388.83 crores to Rs. 784.06 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

National Highways in Gujarat

678. SHRI CHHITUBHAI
GAMIT:

SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the target in Kilometres fixed for constructing National Highways in

Gujarat under Road Development Plan during the period from 1961 to 1981;

(b) the extent to which the target has been achieved so far;

(c) the time by which the target is likely to be achieved;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Government of Gujarat to declare new National Highways in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the roads which will be declared National Highways in Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The 20 year Road Development Plan for 1961-81 recommended a target of 51,500 Kms for National Highways by 1981 for the entire country, but no State-wise break up was given. The targets indicated in this Plan were merely of recommendatory nature, whereas additions to the National Highway network depend mainly on the Plan Outlays. At present, the total length of National Highways stands at 33,689 Kms including those declared as National Highways since 1961. Further additions to the National Highway network would depend upon Plan allocations for the purpose from time to time.

(d) to (f) The Government of Gujarat has forwarded 7 proposals for new National Highways as per the attached Statement. The question of declaration of new National Highways would be considered only after the 8th Plan is finalised.